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SUBJECT Indo-Tibetan Trade

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1. Export of footwear from India continues the trend in Indo-Tibetan trade since the Chinese took over - Indian exports ~~go up~~ while imports come down. Wool, borax and salt which India used to import from Tibet are now all taken up by the Chinese Army of Occupation at inflated prices.
2. More than 100,000 pairs of boots and shoes for the Chinese Army in Tibet are made each year in Calcutta's Chinatown. Here 12,000 immigrant Chinese, mostly ~~all~~ sympathizers, do a brisk trade not only in shoemaking, but also in noodles, groceries, and in prohibited articles, including wrist watches.
3. A lot more commodities from India could find a market in Tibet through the trading post at Kalimpong, but Indian traders do not welcome the Chinese Ta-Yen, which has replaced the Tibetan Tanks since 1952. No one can exchange ~~for~~ tanks, because there is no Chinese Bank in Tibet.
4. The new Sino-Indian pact which provides for mutual trading facilities is seen here as partly an effort on India's part to revive the profitable import trade from Tibet which went on until 1950, but the agreement embodies no more than the right to trade, and is likely to result in increased demand from the Chinese side rather than easier supplies.

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